

What is claimed is:

1. A lifting device in a vehicle comprising:

a frame;

an acme screw rotatably secured to said frame;

a primary acme nut threaded onto said acme screw; and

a bracket assemblage slidably disposed on said frame; said bracket assemblage sized and shaped so as support and constrain rotation of said primary acme nut thereby requiring said bracket assemblage to slide when said acme screw is rotated;

said bracket assemblage having a payload flange for supporting a payload intended for lifting.
2. The lifting device of claim 1, further comprising a secondary acme nut threaded onto said acme screw, said secondary acme nut positioned relative to said primary acme nut so as to support said payload in the event of failure of said primary acme nut.
3. The lifting device of claim 2, wherein said secondary acme nut is located below said primary acme nut.
4. The lifting device of claim 2, wherein said secondary acme nut is located above said primary acme nut.
5. The lifting device of claim 1, wherein said payload is a bed.
6. The lifting device of claim 1, wherein said payload is a fifth wheel trailer.
7. The lifting device of claim 1, further comprising indicia of failure of said primary acme nut.
8. The lifting device of claim 1, further comprising a hand crank coupled to said acme screw.

9. The lifting device of claim 1, further comprising an electric motor coupled to said acme screw.
10. A linear actuation system for use with a vehicle comprising: ✓
at least one acme screw rotatably fixed to a framework in said vehicle;
a support system mounted on said framework and slidable along said at least one acme screw;
an acme nut engaged with threads on said at least one acme screw, said at least one acme screw rotatably confined and supported on said support system; and,
a payload coupled to said support system.
11. A linear actuation system according to claim 10, wherein said system includes two acme screws.
12. A linear actuation system according to claim 10, further comprising a failsafe support system disposed on said framework so as to hold said payload in the event of failure of said acme nut.
13. A linear actuation system according to claim 12, wherein said failsafe support system includes a second acme nut positioned on said at least one acme screw so as to support said payload in the event of failure of said acme nut.
14. A linear actuation system according to claim 10, further comprising a visual indicator indicating a failure mode of said actuation system.
15. A method of lifting a payload in a recreational vehicle comprising:
providing a payload support bracket on a framework in said vehicle; 37

causing linear movement of said payload support bracket up and down said framework solely by rotational movement of a screw mounted substantially along the length of an actuation region of said framework; and,

holding said screw linearly stationary during its rotational movement.

16. The method according to claim 15, wherein said linear movement is caused by providing a nut on said payload support bracket and by engaging said nut with said screw and by holding said nut rotationally stationary during the rotation of said screw.

17. The method according to claim 16, further comprising viewing failure indicia associated with said framework so as to determine whether the causation of linear movement has failed.

18. The method according to claim 16, further comprising preventing failure of said payload support bracket by providing a secondary support system on aid framework.

19. The method according to claim 18, wherein providing a secondary support system includes providing a primary nut for causing linear movement of said payload support bracket and a second nut for supporting said payload support bracket in the event said primary nut fails.

20. The lifting device of claim 1, further comprising an elongated flexible support secured to said frame and said payload flange of said bracket assemblage.

21. The lifting device of claim 1, further comprising a safety latch, said safety latch positioned and configured to provide additional support to said payload.